

OPERABLE UNIT DEFINITIONS

In regulations contained in the National Contingency Plan (40 CFR Part 300), EPA established several program management principles to be considered when conducting Superfund remedial investigations and feasibility studies. One of these principles is that large and complex sites should be divided into “Operable Units” when necessary to phase the cleanup and/or to expedite early actions. Following this management principle, EPA divided the Libby Site into the following Operable Units (OUs):

- ✓ • OU1. The former Export Plant is defined geographically by the property boundary of the parcel of land that included the former Export Plant.
- OU2. The exact geographic area of OU2 has not yet been defined, but includes areas impacted by contamination released from the former Screening Plant. These areas include the former Screening Plant, the Flyway property, the Highway 37 Right-of-Way adjacent to the former Screening Plant and/or Rainy Creek Road, the Wise property, and the KDC Bluffs. The KDC Bluffs area is located directly across the Kootenai River from the former Screening Plant.
- OU3. The mine OU includes the former vermiculite mine and the geographic area (including ponds) surrounding the former vermiculite mine that has been impacted by releases from the mine, including Rainy Creek and the Kootenai River. Rainy Creek Road is also included in OU3. The exact geographic area of OU3 has not yet been defined but will be based primarily upon the extent of contamination associated with releases from the former vermiculite mine.
- OU4. OU4 is defined as residential, commercial/industrial (not associated with former W.R. Grace operations), and public properties, including schools and parks, within the boundary depicted on Figure 1, or those which have received material from the mine not associated with W.R. Grace operations. Highway transportation corridors such as Highway 37 (including the five miles of Highway 37 beginning at the intersection of Rainy Creek Road and extending into the town of Libby) are also included in OU4. Portions of Highway 37 associated with the Screening Plant are addressed in OU2 and are therefore excluded from OU4. Libby Creek is considered part of OU4.
- ✓ • OU5. The former Stimson Lumber Mill is defined geographically by the parcel of land that included the former Stimson Mill. The eastern boundary of OU5 will follow the western high bank of Libby Creek.
- ✓ • OU6. The rail yard owned and operated by the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) is defined geographically by the BNSF property boundaries and extent of contamination associated with the rail yard. Railroad transportation corridors are also included in this OU.
- OU7. The Troy OU includes all residential, commercial, and public properties within the town of Troy.

These OUs may be refined or revised in the future, as needed to optimize the Site investigation and clean-up actions.